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New Amneal generic

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals has announced the launch of Australia's first generic rizatriptan, with the new item to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from next month.

Amneal said the launch of the generic version of Maxalt is a "remarkable achievement" for the company which celebrated its first year of local operations just two months ago.

Stock will be available through all major wholesalers from 01 Dec, with pre-orders being taken now.

Hair testing for drugs

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has issued an updated national drug screening protocol for health practitioners with a history of substance misuse.

Effective from this month, any health worker who has restrictions placed on their registration as a result of previous substance misuse will be required to undergo routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random drug testing.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia said the hair testing provides additional information about the use of a wide range of drugs over a longer time period.

"It therefore provides greater assurance to the Board that the practitioner is not impaired as a result of ongoing substance misuse," the Board said.

The affected health practitioners will pay for the ongoing screening costs including the cost of hair testing which is currently priced at \$825 per test.

Online monitoring soon

A REAL-TIME online monitoring system for codeine products is likely to be implemented quickly, according to widespread enthusiastic responses to the decision to defer any final decision on up-scheduling (**PD** breaking news).

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australian Self Medication Industry have all hailed the move as a response to their "legitimate concerns".

The Health Department said the delay allows the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling to scrutinise the 127

submissions on the issue - 113 opposing the move to S4 - with any final implementation if required not effective until 2017 at the earliest.

Guild national president George Tambassis said the Guild would now move quickly to implement a real time recording system for codeine sales, with the Guild also supporting mandatory warnings and increased consumer education.

ASMI ceo Deon Schoombie said the deferral reflects the views of the great majority of stakeholders and will allow consumers to continue to have appropriate pharmacy access to codeine-containing medicines.

And PSA national president Joe Demarte urged that the extra time allowed by the deferral be used to prepare a Regulation Impact Statement on the proposal, as recommended in the PSA submission.

Cut CM red tape, new report urges

THE Health Department this morning released the final report from the Independent Review of Medicines and Medicinal Devices Regulation, which "highlights the importance of cutting red tape for the rapidly expanding complementary medicines sector".

The review was undertaken by Lloyd Sansom, Will Delaat and John Horvath, and makes 26 recommendations.

The panel has suggested that S3 advertising guidelines be reviewed to provide for a formal risk-benefit methodology for inclusion in Appendix H, and also recommends that the process of pre-approval of the advertising of therapeutic goods be replaced by a "more self-regulatory regime".

See health.gov.au for the report.

IMS NostraData deal

IMS and Melbourne-based NostraData are set to form a joint venture which will leverage NostraData's de-identified pharmacy dispensary information to offer comprehensive pharmaceutical analytics services, reports *Pharma Dispatch*.

Call to ban US DTC ads

THE American Medical Association (AMA) has called for a ban on direct-to-consumer (DTC) advertising for medications and medical devices because of the negative impact of the commercially driven promotions.

"The United States and New Zealand are the only two countries in the world that allow direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs," the AMA said in a statement, with advertising dollars spent by drug makers up 30% in the last two years to a whopping US\$4.5 billion.

The Association says the advertising creates demand for newer, more expensive treatments even though less costly options may be available.

US holidays with CPD

CPD Conferencing is inviting pharmacists to combine their US holiday with continuing professional development by participating in the upcoming Canyons Ski Conference.

Winter is definitely on its way with heavy snowfalls already in the USA, and the Canyons/Park City resort will be opening after US\$50 in mountain improvements making it the country's biggest resort.

See cpdconferencing.com.au.



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Nasal Narcan nod

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has moved quickly to approve Narcan nasal spray, the first FDA-approved nasal spray version of naloxone hydrochloride, a medication that can reverse opioid overdose effects.

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

25 Nov: Pharmacy Business Insight (PBI) Workshop: Building a more sustainable healthcare business for your community; Sydney; info and registration: <http://pbworkshop.com.au>

3-6 Dec: Medicines Management 2015, the 41st SHPA National Conference; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; more info at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

3-10 Jan 2016: Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from www.cpdconferencing.com.au

8-10 Feb: 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; see: www.pharmeducation.com.au

13-14 Feb: Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

19-21 Feb: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

17-20 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2016, Gold Coast - more information at: www.appconference.com

Accredited pharmacist list

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has revealed the 28 pharmacists who have been credentialed as Australia's first "Advance Practice Pharmacists" (PD 10 Nov).

The move follows the pilot Credentialing program operated by the APC this year, which uses the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework (APPF) for Australia as a tool for evaluating performance and guiding development.

Ten of the group are from Queensland, with seven from Victoria, five from South Australia, two from Western Australia and one from each of NSW, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and New Zealand.

"Evaluation against the APPF is a professional development initiative that supports the professional growth of all pharmacists, in all

pharmacy practice environments," the Council said.

The 28 on the list had their performance recognised at the Advanced - Stage 3 level, and they are therefore credentialed and entitled to use the post-nominals *Adv. Prac. Pharm.*

The credential is valid for five years after which time re-validation is required.

The full list is online now at www.pharmacycouncil.org.au.

Schoolies vaccination

YEAR 12 graduates are being urged to check their vaccination status prior to travelling overseas for schoolies celebrations.

Measles and hepatitis A are particularly prevalent and even rabies should be protected against, said Queensland Health's Communicable Diseases Branch exec director Dr Sonya Bennett.

"Anyone visiting Bali or other Asian countries such as Thailand should be aware of the dangers of being infected with the deadly rabies virus, particularly if planning to visit monkey forests," she said.

Pfizer, Allergan deal

PFIZER and Allergan are reportedly close to finalising a merger which would be the biggest healthcare acquisition ever.

Priced at US\$380 per share, Pfizer would buy Allergan for US\$150b.

Win with remescar

This week Pharmacy Daily and Remescar are giving readers each day the chance to win the new Remescar Spider Veins product, valued at \$44.99.

Remescar Spider Veins is an innovative medical device that instantly prevents and treats superficial discoloured, visual and structural imperfections of skin affected by spider veins. Remescar Spider Veins works by forming a long lasting protective shield over and around the affected area. This thin, transparent silicone film hydrates, protects and restores the upper layer of the skin, hides imperfections, and reinforces and protects blood vessels. Visit <http://remescar.com/au>.

To win, be the first from **TAS** or **VIC** to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Remescar Spider Veins is a:

- A) Cosmetic product with hydrating properties
- B) Medical device with clinically proven results
- C) Registered product that has never undergone clinical studies

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lindsay Power from Power ABA.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE makers of LEGO have come up with an innovative solution to reduce parental injury from the iconic construction toy.

Based on the strong likelihood that when checking on a child in the dark your bare foot will naturally land painfully right on top of a lurking brick, the company has created special LEGO-proof slippers (pictured).

Equipped with a padded sole to soften the blow, the slippers are free to the first 1500 customers to create a wish-list on the Lego France website.



OH&S gone crazy.

A seven-year-old blind girl has been told that she can't use her white cane at her Bristol school because of the danger it poses to teachers and other schoolchildren - yes really, according to the UK *Telegraph*.

Hambrook Primary School student Lily-Grace Hooper had suffered a stroke at just four days old, robbing her of eyesight almost completely.

She was given a long fibre-glass walking cane by Common Sense Cane, a charity for blind children earlier this year and has become more successfully independent with the tool.

98% of people commenting on the *Telegraph* article considered the decision to be an example of health and safety gone mad.